

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

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General Summary of News.

[No. 222]

EUROPE.

Our publication of Saturday has already put our readers in possession of the heads of general intelligence brought by the last arrival from England; and we offer them to-day, the Parliamentary Debates in the House of Lords, and House of Commons, on the highly interesting and important topics that came under their consideration on the 10th of June, as detailed in the reports of the Morning Chronicle and the Times Newspapers of the following day. The substance of debates like these cannot be given in abstract; and notwithstanding that they have appeared in the papers of yesterday (the only day of the week on which we could have been anticipated), it is due to the many who receive no other Journal than our own, to give them at length; which the few who receive all the papers in the Settlement will, we trust, readily pardon.

We have heard a rumour, said to have originated in a communication made from home, in private Letters that reached here by the Mary, which stated that Mr. Elphinstone was to be removed from the Government of Bombay to that of Madras, and was to be succeeded in the former by Sir John Malcolm. We are not prepared to say what degree of credit may be attached to this. It is perhaps what is desired, rather than what is really fixed on; and our hopes and wishes are so often mistaken for realities, that we can hardly wonder if such an arrangement was first mentioned as *eligible*, then given out as *probable*, and at last spoken of as *determined on*; for these are the ordinary steps by which the merest surmises often acquire the character of facts.

There is another piece of public intelligence, however, on which we can speak with more certainty, tho' it has not yet publicly transpired. We allude to the abolition of the Post Office Act, as it relates to India. Our readers will remember that we mentioned some time ago, on the strength of Letters from very high authority, that this would eventually take place, though the period was not fixed. Some private Letters received here by the Mary, state positively, that it has been repealed; others say that it is only conditionally, and add that some modified arrangement is to be substituted in its stead. At all events, some amelioration in this grievous and obnoxious system may now be looked for, and it is a subject of such general interest, that any amendment which may enable us to hear more frequently and more speedily from our friends at home, must be hailed with the greatest satisfaction.

We shall endeavour to gather such of the details on this subject as may be accessible, as well as those regarding the New Bill on the Consolidated Customs payable in England, a copy of which has, we understand, already reached this country.

In addition to the heads of intelligence which have already transpired, the following are among the minor points that are alluded to in the English papers of June.

To begin with Royal Personages, we observe that there is no change in His Majesty's condition; but that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent was in sufficiently good health to attend to public business, having held a Court on the afternoon of the 27th of May; and afterwards, a Privy Council on the same day, at which Mr. Grant, the Secretary of State for Ireland, was introduced, and sworn in as a Member. On the 2nd of June, His Royal Highness entertained a party of Naval Officers. On the 4th, His Majesty's birth-day was celebrated in the usual manner; and on Sunday the 6th of June, His Royal Highness gave a sumptuous entertainment to his friends at Carlton House.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cumberland was safely delivered of a son, on the 27th of May at Berlin, and both the mother and child were in good health at the date of the last accounts. The Duchess of Kent continued to nurse her own infant, which also possessed excellent health. The Duke of Clarence intended returning shortly from Hanover to London; and Prince Leopold had already arrived in England with his suite, having landed at Dover on the 27th of May, from H. M. Packet Lord Duncan, after a passage of only three hours from Calais.

The Marquess of Thomond, the Marquess of Sligo, the Earl of Enniskillen, and the Earl of Longford, were installed on the 27th of May at Dublin, as Knights of St. Patrick.

A tunnel under ground is now cutting from the River Medway, at Rochester, to Higham. When this great work is completed, it is thought that a steam-boat can be employed from Maidstone to the Capital.

Sir Francis Burdett is in treaty for the purchase of a stately residence and proportion of productive land attached to it, at Belmont, near Uxbridge.

Lord Clifton has succeeded to the command of the Cobham Yeomanry Cavalry, in consequence of the resignation of Earl Darley.

Among the political subjects of the day, next to the topics immediately under discussion in the Houses of Parliament, which will be given at length,

financial matters seem still to occupy the largest share of public attention. The new taxes that were proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be raised for the augmentation of the revenue, were thus announced by him in the House of Commons on the 7th of June.

Consolidation of Customs, including the duty on Wool,.....	£500,000
Increase of duty on Malt,.....	1,400,000
Increase of duty on British Spirits,.....	500,000
Increase of duty on Tobacco,.....	500,000
Increase of duty on Coffee and Cocoa,.....	130,000
Increase of duty on Tea,.....	130,000
Increase of duty on Pepper,.....	30,000

Total..... £3,190,000

and these were carried, after a discussion, by a majority of 197 in favor of the mover.

The following statement may serve to illustrate the extent of the pecuniary loss which War usually occasions to the belligerents. The last war have, it is said, cost Great-Britain no less than 2040 millions, of our money. To aid our conceptions of the vastness of this sum, suppose this money was in gold, and valued at about 5*l.* per ounce, it would weigh about 11,400 tons, which would load, at 3 tons each, 3800 waggons, and if in silver, at 6*s.* per ounce, about 76,000 waggons; and allowing 20 yards to a waggon, would reach in a direct line about 864 miles! If an ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire of 1000 feet long, the above sum would be sufficient to make a girdle for the whole Globe! This is only our loss; but what has the war cost to all the other Powers engaged, France, Spain, Germany, Denmark, Holland, America, &c.?

An interesting comparative statement is given in a London Paper of the 31st of May, shewing the leading points of difference between the financial affairs of 1797, when the Bank Restriction was first observed, and those of 1819, when its removal has been deemed necessary:

	Jan. 1797.	Jan. 1819.
Annual Net Revenue.....	18,737,760	49,549,899
Interest of Public Debt.....	11,844,407	29,068,137
Sinking Fund.....	2,338,984	14,726,039
Outstanding Exchequer Bills.....	13,218,600	43,655,600
Unfunded Debt.....	5,248,932	1,677,125
Outstanding Credits due to the Bank of England, ..	17,597,280	30,096,900
Exports.....	30,518,000	63,559,711
Imports.....	23,186,000	36,900,681
Circulating Gold Coin,	30,000,000	
Bank of England Notes.....	8,640,250	25,956,840
Country Banks,.....	230	750

To which may be added an increase of population exceeding one million and a half. This population is however likely to be more than taken off, by the past and still existing emigrations from England to every part of America.

Among the many emigrants lately embarked on board the brig *Fanny*, bound from Carmarthen for America, was a woman, *seventy* years of age, who waited for her passage some time at a public house. A few days previous to her departure, the landlord of the house going into the parlour, was struck with astonishment at seeing the table literally covered with gold coins of different descriptions, which the woman was in the act of counting. She informed him that they were the savings of many years, from the profits of a small farm, the amount being *nine hundred guineas*; and having observed of late that her fund was diminishing, she had determined on going to America, to improve her property!

Among the military and diplomatic rumours, we notice, that an assemblage of troops in the neighbourhood of Petersburg, is mentioned; and the Prince Regent of England is said to have been invited to form a strong military line on the Elbe; but this rumour is treated with very little respect. The Duke of Wellington, it was rumoured at Paris, was to leave England early in June, and proceed to Sweden, on an important negotiation; but this rumour also acquired but little credit.

The Persian Ambassador appeared to be in high popularity at the British Court, and his fair Circassian engaged a large share of public attention. The Persian Ambassador sends up to his fair Circassian her dinner, from his own table, by his servants in waiting. It is delivered by them outside of the back drawing-room door in which she resides, to her eunuchs, who are four in number, and are the only persons suffered to enter her room. Two of these are constantly in waiting on her person. She bathes every morning attended only by her eunuchs—His Excellency rises every morning at six o'clock, and goes down stairs to bathe in a common bath, hired from a tin-shop.

Lieutenant General Sir William Lumley, has been appointed Governor of the Bermudas, in the place of Sir James Cockburne.—Mr. For

ayth, the Minister of the United States for Spain, had arrived at the capital of that kingdom; and an Envoy from Chili, had arrived in London in the early part of June. This last is thus mentioned in an Evening Paper: Don Antonio Jose de Yriassari who has arrived in London as General Envoy and Resident Representative of the Government of Chili, was formerly Chilian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and is the same who is mentioned in the report made to the Government of the United States, by Mr. Bland, sent to the Chillis as their Commissioner. It was he also who signed the important treaty between Chili and Buenos Ayres.

Among the Public Meetings that had recently taken place in London, we have a long report of one composed of about 300 of the Electors of Westminster, who met to celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the Triumph of Independence and Purity of Election. It is given at length in the Examiner of the 30th of May, and we shall republish it at a convenient opportunity.

A Meeting of the Pitt Club was held also about the same time in the City, to celebrate the Anniversary of Mr. Pitt's birth-day, at which the Duke of Wellington presided, and was supported by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Westmoreland. The Fox Club had held their Monthly Meeting about the same time, at which the Earl of Albemarle presided in the Chair.

A Meeting of the Merchants engaged in the Trade of South America, as well as the one which we reported on Saturday, as taking place at the Guildhall, had been held to take measures for defeating the Attorney General's Bill to prevent enlistments in foreign service, of which the report will be given hereafter.

The Commercial notices which we meet with in the public papers, are in general discouraging; though some of them would fain hold out a hope of speedy amelioration. Among the paragraphs relating to these subjects, we notice the following:—

The London Gazette of the 28th of May, contains an Order in Council, permitting British vessels to import, subject to the usual duties, into the Mauritius and its dependencies, from any foreign country in amity with his Majesty, any articles of the growth, production, or manufacture of such country, (those of cotton, iron, steel, or wool, excepted;) and to export to such country any article of the growth, produce, and manufacture of the Mauritius, or any other previously legally imported; and extending this privilege to the vessels of any foreign country permitting British vessels to carry on such traffic.

Letters from Bermuda, to the end of April, state, that the trade of the British Provinces in North America is represented to be completely changed by the recent enactments of the English Government, and the retaliating measures of the American Executive. Halifax and Bermuda are stated to be greatly benefited by the change. The extensive demand for lumber for the supply of the British Indian Colonies has given a great impulse to the industry of Nova Scotia. The quantity of vessels daily arriving is stated as not only beyond precedent, but even more than the most sanguine could expect.

It is stated on the authority of private Letters from Liverpool, that trade is once more reviving in that great commercial town. Cotton is on the advance though the quantity imported is immense.

Letters from Carlisle, dated the 28th of May, state that the weavers had gone to the neighbouring villages in a large body, to compel the workmen to join them. On the morning of the 28th, an immense body assembled in the city, threatening the provision shops. Some disturbance was expected; but the Mayor and the Magistrate had made the necessary arrangements; the 18th Hussars were in the town.

Letters from New York mention that upwards of 40 Houses in the Cotton line failed in the course of seven days, and the greatest distress prevailed.

The letters from Holland, are of a much more cheering nature than those which have for a very long period been received from the same quarter. If appearances may be trusted, there is every prospect that business is about to revive from that stagnant state in which it has so long languished. Orders were beginning to arrive from the different towns in the North of Germany, which have usually looked to the Dutch merchants for a supply: and those tradesmen whom the declining state of the markets had compelled hitherto to purchase only what they required for immediate use were buying freely and on the same scale as formerly. The letters now assure those to whom they are addressed in England, that every species of colonial produce, may be exported without fear of sustaining a loss, and with every reasonable prospect of an improvement in value. Bills on England were becoming so scarce, that they could with difficulty be procured at all; there will remain, therefore, no means of making remittances but by billion, a circumstance peculiarly favourable to the new arrangements now making in England with respect to the circulating medium.

The ships dispatched on the second Expedition in search of the North-west Passage, under command of Lieut. Parry, who had the Alexander in the last squadron, are said to have left Seilly on the 24th May; and in one of the ships belonging to the Hudson's-bay Company, which recently left the river for their settlements, Lieutenant Franklyn, late commander in the Trent, in the expedition to reach the North Pole, has taken his passage for the purpose of exploring that part of America to the north of Hudson's bay.

The route this officer is to take will be nearly the same as that pursued by Mr. Hearne, in 1770, who stated, that he reached the sea at the entrance of Copper Mine river. Lieutenant Franklyn will be accompanied by five Europeans, one of whom is a surgeon; and on their arrival at the Copper Mine river, they are to pursue such further course as may appear necessary.

During the voyage of discovery last year to Baffin's bay, a bottle was thrown into the sea from the Alexander, by Lieut. Parry, on the 24th May, when the ship was off Cape Farewell. It contained the latitude and longitude the ship was then in. About two months since the bottle was found, on the island of Barragh, in Killala-bay, and an account of it forwarded to the Admiralty. It is supposed that it must have floated at about the rate of eight miles per day across the Atlantic.

In the Examiner of the 6th of June, we have some notices of the Court and Fashionables, the Drama and the Arts, for which we shall reserve a column on some future day; but we may mention here, that Prince Leopold has reached Claremont, that the Exhibition at the Royal Academy was open, that Mr. Keane was in treaty for the Theatre of Drury Lane at an annual rent, and that Madame Catalani was living at Paris, having relinquished her public and professional labours.

A new Tragedy, called *Fredolfo*, from the pen of Mr. Maturin, has been produced at Covent Garden Theatre: but it was received throughout with such decided marks of disapprobation, that it was withdrawn.

A new Melo-drama, in two acts, called *The Jew of Lubeck*, has been produced at Drury Lane Theatre, and received with almost universal applause.

The remains of Mr. Mitchell, the Editor and Proprietor of The Tynne Mercury, have been interred at the bottom of his garden, in Newcastle, agreeably to his own request. He had planted the intended spot of his grave around with laburnums, lilacs, and other trees.

Mr. Birch, the Coach-maker, has exhibited to the Duke and Duchess of Kent, at Kensington, a curiously constructed vehicle, called the Velocimanipede or phaeton in miniature, calculated to carry three persons: The centre or body of the carriage is supposed to be for a female; the front is for a gentleman to sit on a narrow saddle to guide it; at the back is a small dickey to work the hind wheels by machinery. It went a mile in three minutes, and it could be kept up with ease at the rate of eight miles an hour. Their Royal Highnesses expressed their gratification at the ingenious contrivance of a vehicle to carry three persons without a horse, particularly at the simplicity of the construction, and the ease with which it is worked. It only weighs 100 pounds.

The landed interest of the sister counties of Devon and Cornwall have come to a resolution to erect an iron bridge across Hamoaze, similar to that at Sunderland in point of height, viz. 200 feet above the level of the sea, to admit of vessels passing under without striking their masts. In respect to arches, it will have the same number as the Southwark; the central one spanning the whole breadth of Hamoaze, the other two (under which the streets of Torpoint and New Passage will respectively pass) are for the sole purpose of obtaining a tolerably level road way of 70 feet wide, including foot-ways of ten feet each. The name fixed on it, "The Union Bridge," as the key-stone will unite the two counties of Devonshire and Cornwall.

The arguments by which Lords Bathurst and Liverpool resisted the investigation, relative to the massacre of our countrymen, Arbuthnot and Ambrister, by the American General Jackson, are deemed not a little curious. They amount to this, that a British subject forfeits his right to the protection of his Country, by in any way engaging in the service of another state; though that state should be in alliance with his own Government at the time of the engagement, and though the services for which he engages are merely civil—even nothing more than the conduct of a friendly negotiation between his native country and that which has employed him. No Jurist, it is said, ever yet maintained such a doctrine.

The Foreign News does not extend to so late a date as that brought by the French Papers, from which we gave several articles some days ago. The following paragraphs, under date of the 2nd of June, are however new to us.

A Stockholm Paper in remarking on the ridiculous reports circulated regarding the pretending preparations directed against King Charles John, repeats, to express the devotion of the people of Sweden and Norway towards their sovereign, the energetic terms which their representatives made use of in addressing His Majesty. "Our love and our gratitude are as immovable as the base of granite on which nearly the whole island of Scandinavia reposes."

It is not yet decided, whether the coronation of Louis the XVIIIth, is to take place in the church of Notre Dame or St. Genevieve; Rheims appears to be no longer thought of. The Chamber of Peers have passed, almost without a discussion, and by an immense majority, the law relating to Journals and periodical publications. The Chamber of Deputies resumed on Friday last the consideration of the Budget; some retrenchments were proposed, but rejected, in the estimates for the foreign office, and the Chamber adjourned to the following day.

The German Papers bring intelligence, that the enlightened people in Germany are extremely clamorous for a share in the administration of their respective Governments; and the use they make of power when they are intrusted with it, is a happy proof of their title to have more. It seems that the whole Jew population, rich and poor, young and old, have been driven like wild beasts from Meiningen, in virtue, (or in abuse) of a certain privilege claimed by the citizen reformers of that town, as having been enjoyed by their ancestors.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—JUNE 10, 1819.

TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

EARL GREY, on rising to move the second reading on his Bill for Abrogating the Oath and Declaration against the Transubstantiation, required by the Acts of the 25th and 30th Charles II., said, he had hoped, that the Bill would have met with nearly the general concurrence of their Lordships, looking as he did to the admissions made in the late debates, that dogmatic as such, were no bar to the admission of individuals into civil offices; but that the great stumbling block in the way of the admission, of the Roman Catholics, was their acknowledging in spiritual matters a foreign supremacy, which it was contended disqualified them from giving to the Sovereign of a Protestant state that entire allegiance which they were in duty bound to pay. He had expected, under these circumstances, that the mere belief in Transubstantiation, the invocation of the Virgin Mary, or the invocation of Saints, would no longer have been considered as impediments to the admission of Roman Catholics into civil offices. Unfortunately, however, it appeared, that this was not the case, he having heard from the highest authority, that it was intended most strenuously to oppose the present Bill. After the admission that had been made, that the merely dogmatical opinions of the Roman Catholics in matters of faith ought not to be any bar to their admission into civil offices, and that their religion contained nothing immoral or sinful, he was at a loss to anticipate what objections could be made to this Bill, the purpose of which was merely to remove the disabilities which arose out of those dogmatical opinions, that had been admitted to be of no importance. As it was, however, he should endeavour to put their Lordships in possession of the grounds upon which this Bill had been brought forward to their notice, and endeavour to anticipate any objection that he could imagine was likely to be made against it. It was of great importance, with a view to estimate the consideration due to any argument, as to the civil securities derivable from the clauses respecting the oath and declaration against transubstantiation, in the 25th Charles II. commonly called the test act, which excluded the Roman Catholics from Civil Offices, and those in the 30th Charles II. which excluded them from Parliament, to inquire under what circumstances those acts were passed, particularly because it would be found, that those provisions were directed against the Roman Catholic Religion as a Religion, although it was now admitted, that the Roman Catholic Religion contained nothing immoral and sinful, and had not for their object the devising only securities against doctrines considered to be, from their tendency, of a nature, civilly disqualifying those who held them from bearing an entire allegiance to their sovereign. It would be found, with regard to the first act, the 25th Charles II. that the Parliament which passed it after being from time to time prorogued for two years, assembled at length, in the spring of 1673, under impressions and with a state of public opinion directed with no ordinary fury against the Roman Catholics. The King was strongly suspected to be a Roman Catholic; his only brother and successor, the Duke of York, was known to have embraced the Roman religion; and the latter, together with Lord Clifford and others, known to be Roman Catholics, held the principal offices and completely influenced the Government: add to this, that the Exchequer had been shut, and that a camp had been formed upon Blackheath commanded by a foreign officer, the Duke of Schomberg, and chiefly officered by Roman Catholics, the notorious object of forming which was to intimidate and overawe the Parliament. It was under the heated state of opinion, produced by all those circumstances that the Act alluded to, was passed. The 30th of Charles II. derived its origin from impressions produced from the same cause, still further heightened and aggravated by the depositions of Bedloe and Oates, by the mysterious death of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, and by the suspicion, still more strengthened, that the King had embraced the Roman Catholic religion, whilst it was notorious that he ruled by his successor, who was known to be a Roman Catholic. Such, indeed, at that period was the agitated state of public opinion, and such the public fury against the Roman Catholics, that it was observed by Hume, the voice of reason could no more be heard than a whisper in a bed-room. It was not merely the lower classes, who were thus infuriated against the Roman Catholics, but persons of education, enlightened Statesmen and Philosophers.

It was under these circumstances, deprived of the exercise of their religion and of every civil privilege, and in a free country they were reduced to a state of slavery. Happily a change for the better had since taken place, relief had been wisely extended to the Roman Catholics, and it was now acknowledged that their religion contained nothing immoral or sinful. The Noble Earl of (Liverpool) had admitted this, and had also admitted, from his knowledge of the virtues of Roman Catholics with whom he was acquainted, that there was nothing in their religious tenets which ought to disqualify them from being admitted into civil offices. What, too, was of more importance, it was likewise admitted in acts of the legislature. This would be seen particularly by an act passed, he believed at the instance of the father of a Noble Viscount now in the House, for the relief of His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects in Scotland. The preamble of that act referred to the acts passed in the years 1778 and 1791, for the relief of English Roman Catholics, who were admitted under their provisions to many advantages which they did not enjoy before. The preamble, alluding to the disabilities under which they laboured, professed to relieve them, on the renunciation of particular tenets expressed in language as strong as that contained in either of the declarations. It was, however, clearly to be collected from the preamble, that the temporal authority

of the Pope was the object contemplated by Parliament. So that they had not only the authority of the Noble Lord, but that of the act of Parliament itself, for saying that it was not on account of speculative opinions or religious doctrines they were excluded from a full participation in the privileges possessed by other subjects.—The oath of supremacy renounced both the temporal and spiritual authority of the Pope. He hoped it was not necessary for him on that occasion, to argue at any length for the purpose of proving the impolicy and justice of continuing religious tests except upon the strongest grounds. But the second declaration went much further; it not only renounced the doctrine of transubstantiation, but the worship of the Virgin Mary and the sacrifice of Mass, as idolatrous. If it was necessary to exclude the Catholics who professed such doctrines, was it also, he would ask, necessary to revile the doctrines themselves, because they differed from those which were professed by the Protestants? It surely must be a galling circumstance to the Catholics to be held up as the votaries of blind and idolatrous superstition; they surely must regard it as an injury and an insult that doctrines sacred in their eyes should be thus stigmatised to the world. And could their Lordships, the Members of a Protestant Church, could they concur in so describing them without feeling some scruple of conscience?—It was, unfortunately, too much the practice in every department, of Government, to require the taking of oaths. One of the consequences of such a practice was, to lessen the solemnity of that awful obligation. He spoke in the presence of Reverend Pastors, who were not themselves exempted. Their Lordships had all, on their entrance into Parliament heard the clerk read in a low and hurried voice the oaths, to which they subscribed without consideration, and as matters of course. But were they, after subscribing to such declarations prepared to state, that the doctrines alluded to were, in reality, superstitious and idolatrous? Did they, in fact, know when they so subscribed what the Catholics meant by the adoration of the Virgin Mary or the worship of saints, or any of the doctrines or opinions against which they protested? He believed that many of their Lordships, if called upon to explain them, would find a difficulty in doing so, and on ground, if there was no other, it would not be too much to require the revocation of the test. Could they say that it was idolatrous in the Roman Catholics to believe that the sacrament was transferred into the real presence? Was the doctrine so different from that of our own Church, or were the texts in scripture on which it was founded so clearly against their belief as to enable any person to pronounce judgment in a tone so confident? We might believe they were wrong, but we should recollect in our differences, that the worship of the Catholics was derived from the same source with our own, and that whether their opinions are right or wrong can only be determined by one all wise and just being whom they concur with us in adoring. The Catholics believed in transubstantiation. The Lutherans believed in the same thing, under another name, that of consubstantiation; and the Calvinists believed in the mystical presence. The Protestants declared these doctrines to be wrong; but we said in our Church Catechism, "We receive the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper." That the doctrine of transubstantiation was believed in the early periods of our history no one could doubt. Queen Elizabeth believed it, Archbishop Laud believed it, and in this day many of those who were described by the name of the High Church Party believed it.—The question was too high for human faculties to embrace, and it was presumption in us to make a charge of idolatry against those who maintained a different opinion on a subject which neither they nor we could determine. All we had to do, was to act upon our own conviction, and to forbear from reviling any person whose conviction might lead them to different conclusions.

His Lordship then referred to a letter of Archbishop Wake, in which that learned prelate states, that the difference between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, is little with regard to doctrine, less with regard to discipline, and least of all with regard to fundamentals. After such a declaration from such an authority, could their Lordships with safe consciences concur in reviling the religion of the Roman Catholics? Even at the period when the bills were passed against them, no two of those who voted for the measures voted upon the same grounds. Mr. Waller, Sir Wm. Temple, and Bishop Burnet all gave different reasons, and the latter doubted the propriety of applying the term idolatrous to the doctrines of the Church of Rome. Was it too much, under those circumstances, to ask the House to consider the propriety of repealing the declarations at present existing? As, however, he understood that objections would be made to the bill which he had introduced for that purpose, it was incumbent on him to anticipate those objections as well as he was able. The attempt would have been attended with much more difficulty if he had not met with a paper purporting to be a petition from the inhabitants of the Parish of St. Dunstan's in the West, though he did not know whether it had been presented to the House. The paper contained much of the violent spirit which was manifested in the opposition to a former measure, which he had felt it his duty to propose. Though he had no reason for thinking, that the Noble Lord on the Woolsack had any concern in the drawing up of this paper, yet, from the technical language in which it was written, he entertained but little doubt that it had received the sanction of some persons high in office. The first Resolution began by stating, that the British Constitution and Government are essentially and fundamentally Protestant—a position which he would maintain as boldly as any Noble Lord in the House. What he denied was, that the Declarations afforded it any security whatever. The second Resolution declared the alarm of the Petitioners when the least attempt is made to abrogate any of the laws, or subvert any of the securities by which the monarchy, the established religion, and the rights and privileges of the people are sustained. He was willing to give these respectable persons all due praise for their anxiety on the approach of any danger to the Church and State, but he could not help regretting, that while

they expressed such attachment to the Constitution, they forgot to manifest the same anxiety when principles really dangerous to the liberties of England were asserted in other quarters. The third Resolution complimented the wise policy of our ancestors, by which Roman Catholics were excluded from bearing certain offices, and from the legislature and councils of the nation, and quoted the Thirtieth of Charles the Second, which excluded Catholics from sitting in either House of Parliament, until they had taken the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and subscribed to the declaration against Transubstantiation and Popery. The 4th Resolution referred to the Bill before the House, and the 5th deprecated the repeal of the two declarations required by the 25th and 30th of Charles the Second, as intended by the Bill. It stated, that although the declarations against Transubstantiation and Popery contain only a renunciation of certain opinions entertained by Roman Catholics, yet they form the principal test by which Roman Catholics are to be ascertained, and without which the oaths of allegiance and supremacy are not sufficient to exclude Catholics from Parliament. It referred also to the instruction given by the Sovereign Pontiff to the Prelates of his Church in 1809, distinguishing between passive oaths which might be taken, and active oaths which might not be taken by the Catholics of any Heretical States, and declaring all oaths taken to the prejudice of the Church null and void. When they were told, that without these declarations to other securities were inadequate, it was necessary for the House to inquire, what the other securities were. They were the Oath of Allegiance, the Oath of Abjuration, and the Oath of Supremacy. The Oath of Allegiance the Catholics could take with as much propriety as any other class of his Majesty's subject;—but what he contended for was, that the Oath of Supremacy was in itself a sufficient security against their admission into Parliament. These gentlemen who were in such a state of alarm had omitted, as was natural, under the influence of their fears, to state any arguments in support of their assertions, that the Oath of Supremacy was ineffectual. There was no proof that the 25th of Charles the Second was found ineffectual. In the reign of Elizabeth, Catholics were admitted into the army and navy; and in the reign of Charles the Second, they were admitted to office, not by taking the oath and breaking it, but by the dispensing power of the Crown. From the 5th of Elizabeth down to the Restoration, no Catholic obtained a seat in the House of Commons. There was not a Member of the House of Commons excluded from a seat which he had held in consequence of the Act passed. When in 1810 a Committee was appointed to devise means to prevent the admission of Papists, not a word was said about any being then in the House. When the 30th of Charles the Second passed, not a Member of the House of Commons lost his seat in consequence of it, and it was impossible to suppose, that if any Catholic had been deprived of his seat, no mention should have been made by any of the writers at the time. The assertion therefore contained in the Resolutions, that the Oath of Supremacy was insufficient, was wholly without foundation. What prevented Catholics formerly from being called to the bar? The Oath of Supremacy. What new prevented the English Catholics from voting at Elections? The same oath of Supremacy. It was possible, that in the violence and confusion of elections, some might have taken the oath against their conviction, but would it be as unfair to stigmatize the Protestant Church, in consequence of the violation of the oath against bribery by some who called themselves Protestants? He had no doubt but that passages might be collected from the writings of Catholic Divines to countenance a charge of intolerance, but he deprecated such a mode of argument. There were divines belonging to our own Church, from whom quotations might be made of a similar nature; he would refer to the practice of all the Catholic Governments to prove that they were not intolerant.—France, the Netherlands, Austria, Hungary, and Saxony, and even Rome itself were all instances of the opposite policy. As to the declarations of the Pope, that all oaths taken to the prejudice of the Church were null and void, it went upon a principle recognised in all civilized countries, that if a man took an unlawful oath, he was not bound to keep it.

His Lordship next adverted to the distinction made by the Pope between active and passive obedience. The Pope he observed, was then confined in France, his dominions having been seized by Bonaparte. The passive oath was against entering into any conspiracy to overthrow the Government imposed upon his subjects, which oath they were allowed to take, but the oath of active allegiance obliging them to resist the Pope, in case he should attempt to recover his authority, they were not permitted to take. This also was a principle universally recognised in civilized countries. The English Government would not precisely on the same principles as Bonaparte had obtained temporary possession of Ireland, or any other part of the United Kingdom. Their Lordships would admit that Catholics were bound by their oaths. They either could take the oath of Supremacy or they could not. If they could, by that oath they afforded sufficient security; if they could not, there was an end of the matter; they were excluded from Parliament. He might probably be asked, why taking so deep an interest as he did in the relief of the Catholics from all existing disabilities, he thought it of importance to introduce this bill, which in effect would do nothing. He would state his reason. It was true that as to their admission to office or to either House of Parliament, the bill would do nothing, but in other respects it would do much. It would relieve the Catholic from opprobrium, and the Protestant from the necessity of stigmatising the Catholic religion in a way that must be painful to every reflecting man. But it would do much more. Whether Parliament were disposed to stop there or to go on till they were admitted to all the privileges of the constitution, in either case the present measure would be eminently beneficial. It was impossible, that the Catholics could bear their religion stigmatised, or that the Protestant should continue to stigmatise it, without those feelings being engendered, which would prevent the growth of those dispositions which were necessary to unite them more closely. If Parliament resolved to stop,

it was not necessary to add insult to injury. If they determined to go on he need not say how desirable it was to take every step of previous conciliation, in order to prepare the way. It was by these reasons that he was induced to present the bill which was now on their Lordships' table, and to move, according to the notice he had given, that it should be read a second time.

The BISHOP OF NORWICH expressed great satisfaction on seconding the motion. He strongly condemned the policy of prescribing 5,000,000 of loyal subjects, because other persons supposed they understood the Catholic Religion better than the Catholics themselves. There never was a system so directly opposed to all the dictates of sound wisdom and enlightened policy than the present was, but that had been so ably and eloquently stated by the Noble Earl who introduced the motion, that it would be presumption in him to think that any thing he could add would give any further weight to that speech. The spirit of Christianity was repugnant, to such a system, and therefore in such solemn transactions as oaths, care ought to be taken to prevent the conscience from being in any respect wounded. He therefore deplored, that Members of that House were compelled to make such a declaration as they did when they took their seats, and for himself he could only say, that after having taken such oaths as the law directed, he had not unfrequently felt a very strong sensation of self-reproach. He was further persuaded, that were it not for the glorious uncertainty of the law, and the ambiguous terms in which the words were expressed, that many in that place would feel as unpleasantly as he did. Much had on former occasions been said of the antiquity of the Test and Corporation Acts; but the question was, not whether the law was old, for antiquity never could be plausibly urged as sanctioning injustice; but the point was, is the law, as it now stands, wise and good; and its provisions such as ought not to be infringed? He had no hesitation in saying, that, in his opinion, they were not so, for he could not consider that part of the act in any better light than that it was a profanation of the most sacred ordinance of our holy religion, to make it the ladder by which men were to climb to official situations. Such ought not on any pretext to be allowed in a free country. He therefore, on the whole, implored their Lordships to accede to the proposition of the Noble Earl, as in doing so, they would be at once discharging an act of justice to the four millions of loyal subjects now proscribed, and would be also following the impulse of sound policy. The Right Reverend Prelate concluded his speech (many parts of which were inaudible at the Bar, from the low tone in which he spoke,) by seconding the motion of the Noble Earl, for the second reading of the Bill.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, in rising to address the House on a question so important as the present was, observed, that it might be doubtlessly suspected, that the Clergy of the Established Church of England, from their peculiar habits, and from the prejudices they might have formed on the subject, would come to the question itself with limited views and confined ideas. He could only say for himself, that he was not conscious that ever such an impression had been made on his mind; for on the contrary, he had always come to the discussion, feeling only that interest which was common to all their Lordships—an interest to maintain the Protestant Government in Church and State, as happily established. That interest, he trusted would never cease to be felt in this country by all ranks. The motion which the Noble Earl had now made, was intended no doubt to accomplish the same object, as that which had lately been so fully discussed by their Lordships, yet it not only did so, but it sought to arrive at the accomplishment of the object, by other and shorter means than before; for instead of the House being called on by the Noble Earl and his Noble Friends to make this measure go through the deliberation and candid examination of a Committee, it was now intended by a single act of the pen, to strike at once those safeguards of the constitution out of the Statute Book [hear]. He knew, that the act of Charles was an insurmountable obstacle to Catholics from having seats in Parliament. It was not against the dogmatical opinions stated in that act, that he at present contended, but of the act itself he approved, as affording the infallible means of ascertaining whether or not the person who took the oaths in that act was a Catholic. In making this observation, he utterly disclaimed the idea of having either directly or indirectly any wish to insinuate any thing against that body. However much he lamented their errors, for errors he certainly thought them, he yet felt the sincerest respect for their integrity and good conduct, yet he could not permit himself to give the motion his support. There were other barriers which were placed around the Protestant Church; but certainly this was, in his opinion, the most insurmountable of them all. It had been said however, that there was no danger of the Catholics obtaining seats in Parliament, as the oath of supremacy was in the way; yet the Noble Earl (Grey) had stated, between the 5th of Elizabeth and the act of Charles, Catholics sat in Parliament.

Lord GREY explained. When he stated this, he meant that it was with an exception that they never took the Declaration.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY proceeded. It might be argued, that if they were permitted to sit at that period, why not allow it now? The difference, however, of the times was great, and the restraints under which the Catholics at that time were placed, and in which it was sought to place them now, were equally great. They at that time sat under great penalties, bound, if he might use the expression, *manibus pedibusque*, but now it was sought to bring them in without restraints, and delivered from all the difficulties they laboured under, in short, completely changed from what they altogether were. Such would, in his sincere unbiassed opinion, be a most perilous experiment, and he implored their Lordships to consider the consequences before they attempted to run the risk. He found only one experiment like it, and which took place in the reign of James the Second, when it was attempted to have a Catholic King, but a Protestant House of Lords and a Protestant House of Commons. Fortunately, the deposed Monarch,

under whose reign it was tried, did not succeed; but let their Lordships see what was the attempt now made. It was nothing else than to have a Protestant King, with Catholic Houses of Lords and Commons. (*Hear, hear!*) If the former experiment did not happily prosper, from the dangerous effects it would have produced, it well became their Lordships seriously to reflect what would be the perils to which the Protestant Establishment might be exposed, considering that the present was widely different from the one he had just mentioned. It might be argued, that it was expedient to have such declarations abolished; but was this the most proper period for doing so? The present age had been distinguished by a variety of experiments, particularly attempts to be made in politics. But how was the world now situated? The treasures of Europe had been exhausted by these experiments; the poor, through the distress occasioned by them, had scarcely bread to eat; and even the sacred doctrines of Christianity were held up to the sneer of the scoffer, the assault of the infidel, and the laughter of the profane. And when such was the case, when we had witnessed the effects which had resulted from wild, visionary plans, surely their Lordships ought to be cautious how they acted. Such were the opinions he entertained, after the most minute investigation of the subject, and the most impartial attention to it; and on these grounds he would now sit down by opposing the motion.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL observed, that he should not feel it necessary to say more than a few words on the present occasion, as he had formerly gone so fully into the subject, and besides felt that there were many of the points stated by the Noble Earl (Grey,) on which there could be no great difference of opinion. He had never declared any opinion against religious tests, for on the contrary, he had uniformly given them his support during the whole of his political life. He could not agree with a Right Rev. Prelate, who had succeeded the Noble Earl, that it was now expedient to repeal the Test and Corporation acts, for on the contrary, his decided opinion was, that the present motion was a mere preliminary step to others being brought forward; and indeed that had been admitted by the Right Rev. Prelate himself. The Test Laws were barriers placed round the constitution, which they ought to be cautious in touching. It was at one time moved that they should be repealed, not from any oppressive effect they had on Dissenters, but because they formed a weapon against attack. This was a point equally worthy of their Lordships' attention. When the declaration was considered as calling the doctrines "superstitious idolatry and adoration of the Virgin Mary;" it ought to be stated, that the word superstitious was not applied to Transubstantiation but to the invocation of Saints and the adoration of the Virgin, with the Sacrifice of the Mass. Their Lordships had to inquire what effect this would produce. Would it tend to benefit the Catholics by giving them their privileges? That surely could not be alleged, for as the oath of supremacy existed as it now did, it would be a barrier in their way. If so, where was the benefit of acceding to this motion? The alteration of the existing laws, unless it could be proved, that some specific advantage would result, could only be attended with difficulty and danger. For his own part, were he satisfied, that no ulterior measures would take place, he would accede with less objection to the motion; but must not their Lordships be aware, that year after year some Noble feels it his imperative duty to bring forward other measures? When allusion was made to the feelings of Catholics, equal attention should be paid to those of Protestants; and God forbid, that while he (Lord Liverpool) respected the latter, he should not do the same with the former. On these grounds he opposed the motion.

Lord GRENVILLE said, he had a totally different view of the subject from the Noble Earl who had just done, and had also a different idea of its policy and wisdom. After the very able and eloquent speech of his Noble Friend who had made the motion, it would be unnecessary in him to add any thing to the statement so luminously laid down, and he should therefore confine himself to a few of the arguments against the motion.—The Noble Lord then recited some of the provisions of the Act of Elizabeth, and contended, that persons who were entitled by their birth to a seat in that House, ought not to be deprived of it on mere presumption and false accusation, but only when imperative necessity called for such being the case. He would ask their Lordships, then, why the descendants of those brave men who had shed their blood in several cases for the country, and had laid the first foundation of its liberties, should be now debarred from their rights? True, that had taken place in the profligate and disgraceful reign of Charles the 2nd, but why should it be continued now? Certainly their Lordships ought to pause before they any longer debarred from their rights, those Noble Persons who were entitled to those rights by their birth, and the merits and valuable services of their ancestors. With astonishment he had heard it said, that the Catholic tenets were friendly to a divided allegiance. He had conversed with many of that body on this subject, and never yet did he meet a reasonable Catholic who could bear the idea of this divided allegiance. The allegiance they gave was undivided, and what the law required. The King was entitled to allegiance in as far as he acted according to the laws, and this certainly was what was implied by "true allegiance," the expression used in the oath. This was what the Catholic did, but whatever authority his Majesty had, it was obvious he could enforce not a single principle of religion which was to be the object of faith.—On that his authority could not be exercised. He felt, that these observations might be considered a digression from the immediate subject before the House; but he considered that it led directly to a more clear understanding of the object of his Noble Friend's motion, which went to purge the Statute Book of the country from the degradation of casting calumnious and opprobrious epithets on the belief of a considerable number of our fellow subjects. If he were asked whether, from what he believed of the nature of the Sacrifice of the Mass, it would be idolatrous in him to worship it; he was prepared to answer in the

affirmative. But when he admitted, that he limited, its extent to those who took that oath and subscribed to those declarations in the sense of their own belief; and yet how circumscribed was that number? How few in comparison with those who understood it in a more extended sense, as casting calumnious imputations on the Roman Catholic faith, and stigmatizing the religious worship of their fellow subjects?—If their Lordships ever wished to see that question at rest; if they expected to promote conciliation and harmony amongst different religious communities, they must begin that beneficial work with putting an end to all those degrading and opprobrious imputations—with silencing all those who, without understanding the spirit in which those mysteries were understood by the Catholic religion, revile and stigmatize its professors with the degrading epithets of these declarations. Instead of influencing that spirit, instead of magnifying the breach, it was the duty of the Legislature to afford protection to those who notwithstanding the severe exclusions under which they suffered, have participated in all the country's sacrifices to defend our establishments (*hear, hear!*). But even if there were no other motive, he implored them for their own sakes for the honour and the consciences of the Protestants, no longer to subject them to the necessity of a declaration, which only the distinction to which he alluded, founded, on the sense of their own belief, could at all warrant any men in subscribing. For in disregard of all the prejudices still existing against the Roman Catholics notwithstanding all the efforts that have been practised to delude and influence the public mind, he would ask, whether there was any enlightened mind to be found who believed that such epithets as these oaths and declarations conveyed ought to be applied to the religion which a Fenelon professed (*hear!*) Ought they to be applied to the faith of a respectable number of British subjects? These persons believed in his opinion mistakenly, that by a mystery or a miracle the Supreme Being was worshipped in the Sacrifice of the Mass; and for that belief they think they have a warrant and authority in those very Revelations and Scriptures which have, equally with them as with the Protestant, a divine authenticity. It was in that sense alone that the sacrifice of the Mass was an object of their religious reverence.—Ask then of the 800 persons who lately, in both Houses, subscribed to those declarations, if they had ever read the grounds of the Catholic worship? Ask them for any consistent account of the manner or of the sense in which they understand it, and how few will you find competent to give you any intelligible account. But they have heard, and the law has been continued, that in the reign of Charles II. that part of their faith had been deemed idolatrous, and that constituted all their reason and their answer. Because it was once stated to be so, it must be for ever—against the Catholics, must remain in the language of the poet—"one eternal now." But if these subjects were so little considered by the Members of the Legislature, what must be the opinion of others in the different classes of the community habitually subjected to the necessity of subscribing to those declarations? What are those who took them at the Quarter Session before ordinary Justice of the Peace, or in the department of the Customs? Must no moral injury be the result of thus trifling with a solemn appeal to the Deity on a subject on which those who took, and those who administered the oath, were equally ignorant (*hear, hear!*) He well could suppose, that men might conscientiously declare, that those who believed in the sacrifice of the Mass were in error, but it did not follow that because it was error, it was therefore idolatrous. They had it on the authority of John Evelyn, that one who might be considered as one of the martyrs and confessors of old times—of one who in the hour of affliction and persecution kept the lamp of the pure light of the Reformation still burning, Bishop Herring, that he did not believe the sacrifice of the Mass to be idolatrous. They had the still higher authority of Archbishop Sheldon for the same opinion. Then why not at once put an end out of doors to the repetition of these degrading and offensive epithets against the faith of the Roman Catholics? He said, out of doors because he reflected with feelings of delight, within the walls of Parliament no such language from any side was now ever heard. Such a change he hailed as the omen of an auspicious termination to this great question. As the precursor, not alone of the most salutary result, but the proof of the progress of the influence of truth and benevolence over the human mind. We now professed the most extended principles of toleration. There were, in the minds of some, certain reasons of state which still precluded the hereditary Peer from sitting in that House, because he believed in purgatory; and closed the door of the House of Commons against the man who, though he might be returned by unanimous thousands, remained steadfast in the faith of his ancestors.—It was on political opinions, and not on religious belief, that those exclusions were maintained. Can the Catholics believe those declarations, when they see them putting laws on their conscience, repugnant to the very principles which they professed? (*Hear, hear, hear!*) Let them have the honesty to act as they say. If there be no objection on religious grounds, let these calumnious declarations against their faith be withdrawn (*hear, hear!*) It was impossible the question should stand on its present footing. God forbid it should! (*hear, hear!*) It would be a shame and a reproach. To see the same description of subjects in Ireland with an extension of privileges, though still suffering under exclusions, while they were refused to the Catholics of England, was the theme of abhorrence and reproach in every part of the Continent where that subject was introduced (*hear, hear, hear!*) Let Parliament act towards the Roman Catholics as they ought—let it treat them as the subject of a free community ought to be treated; and it would be strange indeed, if the Catholics did not evince their disposition to meet that liberality by a readiness to take all those obligations which the allegiance of the subject required.

The LORD CHANCELLOR denied any knowledge of the contents of the Resolutions to which a reference had been made; they had been sent to him, but he had never read them. Attached to the security of the Protec-

tant Establishment, he had still limited his exertions to that House. The Learned Lord proceeded to review the circumstance under which the law required that these declarations should be subscribed to by the Members of the Legislature; and next adverted to the arguments drawn on the other side from the Annual Indemnity Act. These arguments were obviously urged to shew the inutility of the Test Act, or the impression of Parliament that Act was unnecessary. But the very circumstance of rendering the Indemnity Act annual was a proof of the wise resolution of Parliament, to take frequent opportunities of considering expediency, and if any danger appeared to arise from its existence to the Church Establishment, to vote its repeal. The policy, indeed which regulated the conduct of the Legislature upon this point, was the same as that on which it acted with respect to the Land Tax and the Mutiny Acts, and, other measures with regard to which it was deemed right to keep a watchful eye upon the means of maintaining the Constitution and liberties of the country. But as to the declaration against Transubstantiation, which it was the object of the Noble Earl's Bill to repeal, he thought it essential to maintain it, because that declaration was the religious test of a political opinion, against which it was the policy of our ancestors to guard by the enactment of the code of laws, with respect to those who professed the Catholic religion. A test of this nature was deemed the most effectual, as Dr. Paley and others had maintained, because, as it was observed, persons sincere in their religion would not for any temporal purpose subscribe to a test inconsistent with their religious creed, and therefore he was tenacious of a declaration which served to exclude Catholics from Parliament, as no Catholic could conscientiously subscribe to it. He was on those grounds the opponent of this Bill; and he was authorised to say, that the Protestant mind of the country was decidedly adverse to its adoption. Therefore he exhorted their Lordships to reject this proposition, as they regarded the feelings of the Protestant people of the empire—as they regarded the principles of the Reformation and of the Revolution—as they regarded the obligations which they owed to their King, to whom, if he did not subscribe to the declaration against transubstantiation and the invocation of saints, no allegiance, either civil or spiritual, was due from the people of this empire. But he could have no apprehension that their Lordships would incur the guilt of sending down impaired to their posterity, that Constitution in Church and State which had been transmitted to them by the wisdom of their ancestors.

The Earl of HARROWBY said, that notwithstanding the appeal of the Noble and Learned Lord, he felt it his duty to support the motion, although he rather wished that after the late solemn decision of the House upon the Catholic Question, no such measure had been so soon brought forward. But still questioning the expediency of this proceeding, he must vote for rescinding a declaration which pronounced the invocation of Saints idolatrous. That the Catholics did not worship Saints, as was vulgarly supposed, was indeed evident from the Declaration of the Council of Trent upon that subject. The Noble Lord ridiculed the idea that the Declaration alluded to could not be deemed offensive to the Catholics, as it merely implied the statement of the Protestant that he would regard such an opinion idolatrous if embraced by himself.

Earl BATHURST thought the question before their Lordships was simply this—whether the oath of Supremacy would form a sufficient guard against the admission of Catholics into Parliament? and upon that question his decision was in the negative. From the preamble of the Bill, indeed, he felt himself warranted in concluding, that this was only a step towards the admission of Catholics into Parliament, if not a step towards the repeal of the oath of Supremacy itself, and therefore he opposed the motion.

Earl GREY, in reply, expressed a hope that the Noble Lord who had just sat down, would not impute to him any insidious purpose, or an attempt to introduce any measure with other views than those which he distinctly avowed (*hear, hear, hear!*) The Noble Lord, indeed, however he differed from him (Lord G.) through life upon political opinions, would, he was persuaded, be unwilling to suspect him of seeking any end by insidious means (*hear, hear, hear!*). The object of this measure was precisely that which he had already stated, and no more; but at the same time he must declare, that he should always feel most anxious to obtain the complete emancipation of the Catholics from the civil disabilities under which they laboured. It was a mistake, however, to suppose that the repeal of the declaration alluded to, would facilitate the introduction of Catholics into Parliament, as any Catholic who should take the oath of supremacy, must be regarded by his brethren as separated from their communion. Why then retain a declaration which a Protestant could not make without offending the Catholic, while the existence of that declaration was in no degree necessary to the avowed object of those by whom the measure before the House was resisted. On the Noble Lord's conclusion of a reply which peculiarly evinced his quickness of accumen, and impressive power of debate, and which we lament that our limits will not allow us to detail, a division took place;—

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Non-Contents 49—Proxies 33 82
Majority against the Bill —59

Adjourned about twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, JUNE 10.

PETITIONS AGAINST THE NEW TAXES.

Alderman WOOD said, that many persons were anxious to petition against the new taxes which had been proposed but considering the doubts which had been expressed in the house on the formality of such petitions, they were at a loss how to proceed. He therefore wished to be informed by the chair, whether the house would receive such petitions.

The SPEAKER was at a loss how to answer the question of the hon. member. If the hon. member meant to ask, whether it was a settled rule of the house to reject petitions against the resolutions of a committee of ways and means, the only answer he could give was, that he had looked as carefully as he could into the precedents on that point, and it did not appear to him to have been the uniform practice of the house to refuse petitions in that stage of the resolutions. He could find no settled rule on the subject, for in some cases the house had received petitions, and in others had rejected them. It rested therefore, with the house to judge of the propriety of receiving or rejecting them in each particular case.

COLONIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Mr. HUME rose, pursuant to the notice he had given, to move for certain papers connected with several of our colonial establishments. The great object he had in view was to show to the house the necessity, and at the same time the practicability, of economy in those branches of our expenditure: for though he believed, that they had within themselves the means of defraying, for the greater part, the expense of their own civil and military expenditure, they were found to be a most heavy burden to this country. The hon. member then went into a lengthened detail, to show, that there existed great want of economy in the financial management of the colonial revenue, and to prove that under a different management they might not only be rendered able to discharge their own expense, but also profitable to the parent country. He concluded by moving—1st, that there be laid before the house a return of the amount of the revenue of the island of Ceylon, distinguishing the amount of each particular head, within the two last years, in which the same could be made out; 2dly, the total amount of the expenditure of Ceylon, distinguishing the civil from the military establishments, and also the expenses paid by the island itself from those which were discharged by the government of Great Britain; 3dly, a return of the number of civil officers in Ceylon, whose salaries amounted to our exceeded £50L, distinguishing the particular amount of each, also mentioning by whom those officers were appointed and distinguishing the Europeans from the natives of the island; 4thly, a return of the number of staff officers employed in Ceylon within the last year, with the amount of the salary of each. He also moved for returns nearly similar from the Cape of Good Hope, the Mauritius, Malta, and the Ionian Islands.

Mr. GOULBURN had already expressed to the hon. gen. that he did not intend to oppose the motions, except that which related to the Ionian Islands. He would not therefore occupy the time of the house by any comments upon them until they were placed before it. With respect to the returns from the Ionian Islands, he need only observe, that those islands had a legislative government and that we had no more right to call upon them for an account of their revenue than upon any independent state.

The resolutions respecting Ceylon, the Cape of Good Hope, and the Mauritius, were then put and agreed to.

The next were the resolutions respecting Malta.

On these being put, Mr. FORBES rose and made observations, but they were not at all audible in the gallery.

Mr. HUME said, that his hon. friend would find an account of the revenue of the islands under all its distinct heads, and that of the customs among the rest. It would be too much, perhaps, to expect, that the Secretary of State should enter into a detail of the amount of each particular day. The question, how far either the ministers of this country, or the governor of the ceded colonies, were empowered to levy taxes upon the different colonies, was not a question which he intended to discuss at the present moment; on some future occasion it might, perhaps, be advantageous to call the attention of the house to it.

They were then carried in the affirmative.

Mr. HUME then rose again. He should be sorry to detain the house for any great length of time upon the motion which he was submitting to them, if he were not convinced of the absolute necessity of making it. Without this motion he was convinced, that the account for which he moved would never be placed on the table of the house. The under Secretary of State had said the Ionian Islands were in dependent states; if that assertion had been correct, he would have been the last man in the world to press upon the house such a proposition as he had just made to it; but as it was an assertion totally unsupported by truth, as the treaty of Paris, which declared these islands independent, declared them also independent under his Majesty's commissioner, he felt it requisite to demand the returns for which he moved. His Majesty's commissioner had, he found, on referring to the treaty of Paris, the power of appointing a general treasurer to the islands; that general treasurer was bound to place his accounts before the governor of the islands. He was also bound to place them before the senate of the confederation, and the ministers of his Britannic Majesty; and without observing all these forms, none of his accounts could be duly passed or sanctioned. By the treaty of Paris it was also agreed, that 3,000 troops, under the command of some of his Majesty's officers, should be stationed in the islands, but that the islands should pay all the expenses of this protecting force. Now to this part of the treaty of Paris, the Emperors of Russia and Germany were contracting parties, and had, he believed, guaranteed the due execution of it. He would therefore ask, whether either of those potentates had defrayed the expenses of this protecting force? No such thing. If they had not done it, had the treasurer of the islands? No such thing. The expense of supporting these 3,000 men amounted to 99,000L, which was charged upon the revenues of this country. His reason for making his present motion was to know why we were paying 99,000L annually, when we were not bound to pay a single farthing. He trusted, that government would not have any objection to grant it. His motion was, that a petition be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying that there be laid before this house a return of the total revenue of each and all of the Ionian Islands during each of the 2 last years, specifying the different heads under which that revenue was collected.

Mr. BRAND seconded the motion, which was negatived without a division.

Mr. HUME then moved, that a petition be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying that a return of the expenses of the Ionian Islands be laid before that house, specifying the salaries of all officers, both civil and military, and all other expenditure incurred in those islands. If such a return was not made, the honorable secretary ought not to advance a single sixpence in order to defray them. The motion was agreed to.

The length of the Debate on this subject obliges us to postpone it till tomorrow—in order to make room for the variety of local information to which the several departments of our last pages are usually devoted.

Coroner's Inquest.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,—I was last night in company with a Gentleman who had recently returned from an Inquest upon the body of a poor Bearer, who was killed the evening before by a Carriage having run over him. With this Carriage, there was neither Coachman or Syces, and in consequence of the neglect of these miscreants, a fellow-creature has lost his life, and three others (now lying in the Hospital,) are most dreadfully bruised and wounded.

How often is the fact to be seen of a Gentleman's Carriage standing at the entrance of the house, and not a single person in attendance. No, forsooth, the Coachman and Syces think the Durwan's hockah the first consideration, and you cannot but have observed, Mr. Editor, the exquisite satisfaction with which these wretches hand round the fascinating drug, without giving a thought of what may eventually be the consequence of such neglect.

There can hardly be a doubt but the accident in question arose from something of this nature, and I think the Public have a right to call upon the Owner of the Carriage to deliver up his neglectful servants to the proper Authorities, for the purpose of their being made a salutary example to others.

Calcutta, October 23, 1819.

A. L.

Coroner's Juries.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,—I beg to be indulged with a corner of your Journal, in reply to some observations, that appeared in your Number of the 22nd instant, under the signature of JOHN BULL. It is not my intention to dispute "the legal advice" which this Gentleman has recently taken; upon the subject under discussion, but merely to point out the impracticability of conforming STRICTLY with the Law as observed in England. The spirit and intention of a Law made in the mother-country may be founded on just principles, and perhaps answer the purpose for which it was intended to provide; but when the same regulation is brought forth to second the views of an individual in this distant colony, it then becomes a question, whether its adaptation is, or is not, suited to the climate and colony in which JOHN BULL is now a resident.

In this country, where the decomposition of the human body is, perhaps, more rapid than in any other, it is almost (if not entirely,) impossible, to comply with the strict letter of the Law, as quoted by JOHN BULL in the 3rd paragraph of his Letter. There are many instances in which the Coroner is four, eight, and sometimes even twelve hours before he receives any information upon a case requiring a Jury; consequently, after so great a length of time, it would, I think, be criminal in the Coroner, to give twelve hours notice to each Jurymen to prepare for his attendance, inasmuch as it would be exposing a dozen housekeepers to the chance of being infected by animal effluvia in a putrescent state, the probable consequences of which it is not necessary to name.

What is an Inquest? Is it not to enquire how the deceased came to his or her death? Certainly. This then, being admitted, I am prepared to say, that in twenty-four, or even twelve hours, the body may have made so rapid an advance to putrefaction, that the actual cause of death may be doubtful; such, for instance, as in violent bruises, which may easily be seen upon an inspection of the body a short period after death; but when it comes to twelve and eighteen hours, no person will deny, but that the whole body will assume a discoloured appearance; consequently no honest man can say, (where evidence is defective,) whether the person died a natural death, or whether it was violent and premature.

There are many other cases in which it can be proved, (apodictically,) that the Law as observed in England with regard to Coroner's Inquests, is totally and absolutely impossible, unsuited, and impracticable to be followed in this country, and I verily believe, that JOHN BULL will (upon due consideration) have the candour to acknowledge it himself.

You, Mr. Editor, who know my real name, will, I hope, exonerate me from having any personal interest in this discussion, and that I have been led (merely from justice) to take the part I have done.

Calcutta, October 23, 1819.

A. L.

Similes.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR, The Simile-makers among the anti-petitioners are dreadfully in arrears. While they were ringing the changes upon Four and Twenty Directors, the signatures insensibly multiplied to forty; while they were inaugurating a Council of Forty, and equipping Forty thieves, behold! the Petitioners are eighty men, *bien compté*? Have they lost their faith in the destructive virtues of their similes? If the patients should increase to 400, they might still liken them, as before, to the Senate of 400.

In the mean time, the anti-petitioners are sending about from house to house, a Letter to Government, expressing their *abhorrence* of the doctrine in the Petition, and expect to escape from all evils by the selectness and compactness of their numbers; or at all events that those who try their hands at such

severities shall be restricted to the most gentle and harmless. For instance they must begin with the THREE Christian Graces, Faith, Hope, and Charity; and with the FOUR Evangelists, to lay a foundation for the Society that is to diffuse a new light on the legitimacy of usurpation. If the number of proselytes increases, they may challenge a comparison with the SEVEN wise men of Greece; and if in spite of all the efforts of their enemies, they should grow to TWELVE, even then they may allege that their paper contains the *Acts of the Apostles*.

October 24.

MICROSCOPE.

Government Orders.

General Orders, by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General in Council
FORT WILLIAM, OCTOBER 16, 1819.

Doubts having been entertained of the true meaning of the following Extract from Minutes of Council under date the 29th November 1786, in consequence of the omission of a Parenthesis, it is re-published to the Army for general information.

The Pay Masters are immediately upon the receipt of the Auditor General's Retrenchments to furnish Copies of them to those respectively concerned requiring them to pay the Amount.

"If this requisition has not been complied with, when the next Month's Allowances are issued, the Pay Master is hereby authorized and ordered to make Stoppages from the Bills or Abstracts of that, and the succeeding Months, (Pay excepted) until the full Amount of the Retrenchments is liquidated."

"If this requisition has not been complied with, when the next Month's Allowances are issued, the Pay Master is hereby authorized and ordered to make stoppages from the Bills or Abstracts of that, and the succeeding months, (Pay excepted) until the full amount of the retrenchments is liquidated."

The Most Noble the Governor General in Council, in order to secure the state from the eventful loss which might arise from delay, and from the intermediate decease of persons, against whom retrenchments may stand, does hereby declare that the Officers in the Pay Department are authorised immediately, on receipt of the Auditor General's Statement of retrenchments, to make the requisite deductions of the amount standing against individuals from the Abstracts which may then be in course of Payment, or from the first and following Abstracts which they may receive as payment become due.

W. CASEMENT, Lieut. Col. Sec. to Govt. Mil. Dept.

General Orders, by the Commander in Chief, Head-quarters, Calcutta; Oct. 20, 1819.

Major General Sir D. Marshall, K. C. B. Commanding in the Field, will be pleased to issue the necessary orders for carrying into early effect the following arrangements, pursuant to Government General Orders under the 16th of October 1819, directing the abolition of the Cavalry Depot at Cawnpore.

All the Recruits are to be sent to join their respective Corps without delay, furnished with the prescribed Pay and Clothing Certificates.

The Horses are to be distributed among the several Regiments of Cavalry, (the Governor General's Body Guard included) in proportion to their wanting to complete.

The Cast Horses are to be made over to the Commissariat Department for the purpose of being sold on account of Government, under the regulations on that head.

All the Arms, Accoutrements, and Stores of every description in use with the Depot are to be sent into the Cawnpore Magazine.

The Native Commissioned, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Troopers employed at the Depot, who may have been struck off the strength of their Corps, are to be re-enrolled and returned as Supernumerary, should there be no vacancies for them on the effective establishment.

The Warrant and Non-Commissioned Staff are directed to join and do duty with the undermentioned Regiments in their present Rank, and to be returned as Supernumeraries, until opportunities offer for permanently posting them.

Mr. F. Wrenn, Riding Master, the 7th Regiment Light Cavalry at Keitah.

Mr. M. Buckley, Assist. Riding Master, the 6th Regt. Light Cavalry at Kurnaul.

Mr. M. Gorman, Assist. Riding Master, the 3d Regt. Light Cavalry at Muttra.

Serjeant Major W. Loder, the 8th Regiment Light Cavalry at Purtaubghur.

Staff Serjeants Martin Furrow and Thomas Perriman, the former the 6th and the latter the 8th Regiment Light Cavalry at Kurnaul and Purtaubghur.)

The Trumpet Major to join the 7th Regiment Light Cavalry, in that Rank as a Supernumerary.

The Native Doctor to be allowed the option of his discharge, or of being transferred to any Native Corps where there may happen to be a vacancy.

Surgeon Impey will continue in his present charge of the Medical Depot at Cawnpore until further orders.

As soon as the orders of Government have been carried into effect, Lieutenant Colonel Houstoun will proceed and assume the command of the Bengal Troops serving in Malwah, to which he has been appointed by Government General Orders of the 16th Instant; and Lieutenant Allan will join his Corps.

The following removals of Lieutenant Colonels to and from Regiments of Cavalry are to take place:—

Major General and Lieutenant Colonel Brown, from the 7th to the 1st Regiment Light Cavalry.

Lieutenant Colonel Fitzgerald, from the 1st to the 3d Regiment Light Cavalry.

Lieutenant Colonel Elliott, C. B. from the 3d to the 7th Regiment Light Cavalry.

Assistant Surgeon Grant is posted to the 2d Battalion 4th Regiment Native Infantry, and Assistant Surgeon King, to the 3d Battalion of Artillery.

Deputy Assistant Commissary of Ordnance Cross, is appointed to the temporary charge of the Dinapore Magazine, until relieved by Assistant Commissary of Ordnance Babonau.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:

Assistant Surgeon King, 2d Battalion 4th Regiment, to the Presidency, preparatory to an application for furlough to Europe, from the 12th of October to the 12th of January 1820.

Lieutenant Patch, 1st Battalion 5th Regiment, to remain at the Presidency on Medical Certificate.

Captain Presgrave, 1st Battalion 26th Regiment, on Medical Certificate, to enable him to rejoin his Corps.

Head-quarters, Calcutta; October 21, 1819.

Lieutenant John Ezett, of the 24th Native Infantry, is appointed Adjutant of the Ramgurbh Battalion, vice Rogers, nominated to the Command of the Escort attached to the Resident at Catmandhoo.

The Appointment in Field Army Orders under date the 28th of September 1819, of Lieutenant G. Watson, 2d Battalion 21st Regiment, to act as Adjutant to five Companies of the Cawnpore and Mynpoorie Levies directed to proceed to Futeh-gurbh, to relieve the Right Wing 2d Battalion 11th Regiment Native Infantry, is confirmed.

J. NICOL, Adj. Genl. of the Army.

Administration to Estates.

Richard Rowland Yeomans, late of Moorsheadabad—Dempster Heming, Esq.
John Corbett, Esq. late of the Commercial Bank—Dempster Heming, Esq.
James Hume, Esq. late of Tipperah—Dempster Heming, Esq.
Assistant Surgeon David Hastie, late of Seharunpore—Dempster Heming, Esq.

Domestic Occurrences.

BIRTHS.

At the Presidency, on the 24th instant, Mrs. Major Taylor, of a Son.

At the Presidency, on the 22d instant, Mrs. J. Llewelyn, of a Son.

At Barrackpore, on the 23d instant, the Lady of Major T. G. Alder, 30th Regiment of Native Infantry, of a Daughter.

At the Presidency, the Lady of Charles Christians, Esq. of a Daughter.

At Serroor, on the 8th ultimo, the Lady of Major Mayne, of a Daughter.

At Middelburg, on the 11th of April, in the Island of Walcheren, the Lady of Doctor J. R. Vos, of a Son.

DEATHS.

At Chinsurah, on the 9th instant, Mr. George Johnstone, late of the Firm of Johnstone and Co. Coachmakers, Calcutta.

At Comillah, on the 26th ultimo, at about noon, of a brain fever and mortification of the bowels, James Hume, Esq. Assistant Surgeon of the civil station of Tipperah, at the early age of 21 years, and after an illness of only six days.

This young man was one of the passengers of the late ill fated and unfortunate ship, the Paragon, which was wrecked upon the Sand heads. Mr. Hume had been in the country only about six months, a little more than half of which period he had been at Comillah, in which short space of time he endeared himself to all the Members of the station.

At Dinapore, on the 10th instant, of dropsy, after a few days illness, at the advanced age of 74, Captain Thomas Leny, of the European Invalids, who first came to India in the year 1760, and through the long period of 59 years enjoyed a degree of good health which falls to the lot of few. He was a humane, kind hearted man, and is much regretted by many old friends, and by the poor in his neighbourhood.

At Bombay, on the 20th of Sept. at eight o'clock in the morning, Hugh George Macklin, Esq. Advocate General, of a complaint which after his death was proved to be a disordered liver. For twelve years has our eastern Hemisphere been brightened by the presence of a man, whose brilliant genius and exalted talents were equalled by the excellence of his heart, and the integrity of his character. The rare endowments of his mind were brightened by all that education could bestow, and refined by an intercourse with that world, where it was hoped he again would shine, admired for his talents as a scholar, a poet and an orator, and respected as a man, a statesman and a friend. His good qualities were noble exalted virtues, his imperfections but foibles. The cold cup of misery he filled with consolation, but poured the rich tide of genius wit and eloquence, into the goblet that beamed with joy and plenty. An affectionate son, a generous brother, and an attached friend, he has in all these relations left behind him those, who will never cease to deplore his loss, and to revere the memory of one whose like they will probably never meet again;

Whose humour, as gay as the fire fly's light,
Play'd round every subject, and shone as it play'd,
Whose wit in the combat, as gentle as bright,
Ne'er carried a heart—stain away on its blade;—
Whose eloquence brightening whatever it tried,
Whether reason or fancy, the gay or the grave,—
Was as rapid, as deep, and as brilliant a tide,
As ever bore Freedom aloft on its wave.

At Sea, on the 3d of June, George Oswald, Esq. one of the passengers on the Honorable Company's ship Astell.

At Paris, on the 25th of May, Countess Julia de Polignac, a young Lady of a noble Scotch family.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Oct. 23	George Cruttenden	British	J. J. R. Bowman	Madras	Oct. 9
24	Bengal Merchant	British	A. Brown	Madras	Oct. 14
24	China	Amercn.	H. Putnam	Leghorn	July 1

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

(None)

BOMBAY ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 29	Prince of Wales	British	G. Robson	Surat	

ARRIVALS IN ENGLAND.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
May 3	Europe	British	Ashton	Bengal	
6	Thalia	British	Ballingall	Bengal	
11	Marquis Wellington	British	Gordon	Bengal	
12	Edward	British	Johnson	Bombay	
15	Woodman	British	Bear	Java	
16	Java	British	South	Java	
16	Castle Forbes	British	Fraser	Bombay	
16	Perseverance	British	Templer	China	
June 1	General Graham	British		Bombay	
1	Henrietta Louisa	British		Bengal	
2	Batavia	British	Lamb	Bombay	
4	Cadmus	British	Clives	Manilla	
5	Henry Porcher	British		Bombay	
5	Fairlie	British	Ward	Bengal	
5	Sovereign	British	Barton	Bengal	
6	Astell	British	Cresswell	Bengal	
6	Stentor	British	Harris	Bengal	

ARRIVALS IN FOREIGN PORTS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Feb. 23	Sophia	British	Matre	India	
April 5	Indus	British	Wills	Bengal	
8	Franklin	British	Bing	Bengal	
9	Mary	British		Manilla	
10	Lion	British	Townshend	Canton	
12	Citizen	British	Hubbelt	Manilla	
16	Sea Lion	British	Hewitt	Bengal	
17	Eliza	British	Osgood	Sumatra	
21	Cordelia	British	Majee	Sumatra	
21	Fort William	British	Glass	Bengal	
25	Caroline	British	Dempsey	Batavia	
25	Midas	British	Adkins	Manilla	
29	Escort	British		Bourbon	
May 1	Bengal	British	Ansley	England	
2	Camoens	Portz.		China	
3	Juliette	French	Veisin	Mauritius	
3	Victor	French	Blanc	Bourbon	
3	Illusion	French		Bourbon	
3	St. Martin	British	Cobert	Bourbon	
5	Minerva	British	Bates	England	
7	Pedlar	French	Vermilly	China	
7	Louise Eugene	French		Manritius	
9	Rose	French	Regria	Bourbon	
10	Robinson	British	Petter	England	
10	Twec Geivoeders	Dutch		England	
10	Twec Vrienden	Dutch	Boss	Java	
11	William Baker	British	Whitmore	England	
11	Christ Bernardina	Dutch		England	
11	Augusta	British	McNeil	England	
11	Elizabeth Johanna	Dutch	Lucas	Batavia	
12	Aurora	British	Manning	Batavia	
13	Zelina	Dutch	Nuremberg	Bengal	
13	George Long	British	Snow	England	
13	United States	British		England	
16	Ladoga	British	Claire	Manilla	
18	Brahmin	Amercn.	McGregor	England	
22	Pic Vert	French		Mauritius	

Passengers.

Passengers per George Cruttenden, from Madras.

Mrs. Ricketts and four children, Mr. James Nicholson, Mr. George Ricketts, Mr. John Sturmes, from Madras.

Passengers per Bengal Merchant, from Madras.

Baroness De Richmond, Baron Des Cassages, De Richmond, Commissary Extraordinary of His Majesty's Company's Marine, and Inspector of French Settlements in India, Mr. Eugene De Cassages, Marine Office, Mr. Carrie, Secretary, Messrs. T. Sheppard, and George Grant, Captain J. R. Arbutnot, Country Service, Mr. J. Patterson, Surgeon, 12th Native Infantry.

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